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July 29, 1966

Dr. Robert F. Thorne
Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden
1500 North College Ave.
Claremont, California

Dear Dr. Thorne:

At least we have one very good specimen in this bunch. It seemed that I should surely recognize the showy red flowers, but have come up with a blank so decided we should send it to an expert. If I hadn't fallen flat on my face about "fiddleneck", I'd say that No. 4 is our old friend solanum, probably elaeagnifolium, but at this point I've given up.

No. 1 - From San Mateo: "Enclosed is a twig of a plant given to me. I think it's a beautiful thing and would appreciate knowing its name."

Cuphea ignea A. DC. Cigar-flower

No. 2 - From Ukiah, Mendocino Co.: "Please tell me what this plant is and something about it. Someone said I should brew a tea from it and apply the tea to rashes. I used it on poison oak and had very fast relief. It kept poison oak from spreading and cleared it up in about 4 days. I would like to know the active ingredients in this plant." (We have an herb book in the office which would answer part of this if we knew what to look for. - M.M.)

Tetragonia expansa mallow petals

Artemesia douglasiana Bess. in York.

No. 3 - From Long Beach: "Enclosed is a seed pod, flower and leaves from a vine that came up in my yard. Someone told me that it was New Zealand spinach. Is this an edible plant? This patch has spread to be quite large and has long runners with purple flowers."

Dew-plant

No. 4 - From Wadsworth, Nevada: "Am sending a weed which I have found in our field to see if you can tell what it is. Nobody seems to know. It is wilted badly now but with the fruit you may be able to tell what it is."

Aptenia cordifolia Schwant. (mesem. succ. L.f.)

Solanum triflorum Nutt.

Sincerely,

CALIFORNIA FARMER

By Marjorie McAlinden
Marjorie McAlinden

MM:sc
Enc.